

**WHAT IS CLAIMED:**

- 1           1.       A method for accessing services and applications offered by a network  
2 service provider (NSP), comprising:  
3                   communicating IP packets between a service subscriber device and a server  
4 over a public physical access transmission medium that is operated by the NSP;  
5                   providing a unified interface to the service subscriber device for selecting  
6 one or more NSP services or applications;  
7                   manipulating service variables associated with the selected NSP services or  
8 applications; and  
9                   accessing the selected NSP services or applications, using the manipulated  
10 service variables.
- 1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein the public physical access transmission  
2 medium comprises at least one of a twisted pair wire, coaxial cable, optical fiber, and radio  
3 frequency spectrum.
- 1           3.       The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of services or applications  
2 comprises at least one of data communications, information access, voice over IP, service  
3 management, unified communications, billing, VPN, 800-Data, on-line subscription,  
4 conferencing, calling card, unified messaging, transit carrier selection; and transport service  
5 selection.
- 1           4.       The method of claim 1, wherein manipulating service variables is associated  
2 with selecting, changing, combining the NSP services or applications.
- 1           5.       The method of claim 1, wherein the variables associated with the plurality of  
2 services or applications are interdependent.

- 1           6.     The method of claim 1, wherein the IP packets between the service  
2 subscriber device and the server are communicated via a NSP router.
- 1           7.     The method of claim 1, wherein the service subscriber device runs a browser  
2 interface.
- 1           8.     The method of claim 1, wherein the service variables are manipulated for the  
2 selected NSP service or application per session.
- 1           9.     The method of claim 1, wherein the unified user interface provides a single  
2 password for authenticating access to the plurality of NSP services or applications.
- 1           10.    The method of claim 1, wherein the servers is a third-party service provider  
2 server.
- 1           11.    The method of claim 1, wherein an IP session is realized by means of a  
2 private IP address assigned to the user device by the NSP.
- 1           12.    The method of claim 1, wherein the IP is assigned by the NSP dynamically  
2 using at least one of an IP Configuration Protocol (IPCP) in PPP and Dynamic Host  
3 Configuration Protocol.  
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